

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJ: ISRAEL RADIO BROADCAST

REF: AMMAN 1000

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP STORY REQUESTED REFTEL:

2. QUOTE. KING HUSSEIN MAY SOON ABANDON HIS EFFORTS TO
REGAIN CONTROL OF THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF THE
JORDAN RIVER, DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN AMMAN BELIEVE.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S VISIT, EXPECTED
SATURDAY, MAY MARK THE TURNING POINT IN HUSSEIN'S POLICY,
THEY SAY.

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HUSSEIN IS THOUGHT TO BE TURNING TOWARD THE VIEW THAT A FLEDGLING PALESTINIAN STATE, MADE UP OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, WOULD DRAW HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ARAB REFUGEES, AND HARSH ECONOMIC REALITIES WOULD THEN FORCE THE STATE TO SEEK CLOSE TIES WITH JORDAN -- ON HUSSEIN'S TERMS.

THEN HIS 1972 PLAN FOR A FEDERATION BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE JORDAN COULD COME INTO EFFECT WITHOUT THE PRESENT BITTER OPPOSITION OF THE PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARAB STATES.

THE KING ALSO WOULD LEAVE TO THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS THE TASK OF NEGOTIATING ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORY SEIZED IN THE 1967 WAR.

BUT INFORMANTS SAY HE WILL FIRST SEEK KISSINGER'S VIEW ON A PALESTINIAN STATE.

JORDAN HAS ALWAYS SAID THAT, AS THE WEST BANK WAS TAKEN FROM IT, IT SHOULD REGAIN IT. HUSSEIN PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD THEN GRANT THE WEST BANKERS AN INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED PLEBISCITE TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE.

BUT HE HAS BEEN CONFRONTED WITH MASSIVE FOREIGN AND INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO EVEN A TEMPORARY RETURN OF THE AMMAN ADMINISTRATION. THE OTHER ARAB STATES BACK THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AND ITS ANTI-HUSSEIN STAND, AND A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE WEST BANKERS ARE BELIEVED OPPOSED TO A RETURN OF "HUSSEIN AND HIS BEDOUINS."

INFLUENTIAL JORDANIANS ALSO HAVE PRESSED THE KING TO LET THE PALESTINIANS GO THEIR OWN WAY.

ONE VITAL QUESTION REMAINS: WILL ISRAEL, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED A PALESTINIAN STATE, GIVE UP THE WEST BANK PEACEFULLY? DIPLOMATS IN AMMAN BELIEVE THAT ONLY THE UNITED STATES COULD GET THE ISRAELIS TO AGREE ON THIS, AND THEN ONLY BY GIVING ISRAEL THE FIRMEST GUARANTEES.

THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS SAID TO BE WILLING FOR THE WEST BANKERS TO FORM A NATIONAL BODY TO

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REPRESENT THEM AT THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS. THE ISRAELIS THEN WOULD BE DEALING WITH MORE MODERATE PALESTINIANS WHOM IT KNOWS WELL. UNQUOTE. CASEY

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